

without comparison with a South Russian specimen, to say if they were the same, but there were considerable differences between the measurements of the Chinese eggs and those given of *S. chersonesus*. This was, however, somewhat discounted by the great variations in size among the Chinese eggs. Of the seven recorded eggs, five were absolutely perfect and two damaged when found; one in the British Museum was broken in transit, but has been entirely and successfully repaired.

Mr. W. L. SCLATER communicated the following notes on the nomenclature and taxonomy of African Birds (no. 4):—

HÆMATOPUS MOQUINI.

An earlier name for the African Black Oystercatcher is *Hæmatopus niger* Temminck (Man. d'Orn. 2nd ed. ii. p. 63, 1820); this name was formerly said to be invalidated by *Hæmatopus niger* Pallas (Zoogr. Ross. Asiat. ii. p. 131), supposed to have been published in 1811, but as this work was not published till 1827, Temminck's name has priority. A still earlier use of the name is found in Gmelin (*Scolopax nigra* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, p. 659, 1789) for the Black Oystercatcher of the northern Pacific. We must therefore continue to use the old name of the Catalogue for the Black Oystercatcher of South Africa, *Hæmatopus moquini* Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. xliii. p. 1020 (1856): Africa.

It would appear to be more logical to rank the Black Oystercatchers as species rather than as subspecies, as their distribution is so discontinuous.

CHARADRIUS PECUARIUS.

This name for the Kittlitz Sand-Plover is discarded by Hartert (Vög. pal. Faun. p. 1540) for *Charadrius varius* Vieillot (N. Dict. xxvii. p. 143, 1818), which he states is not preoccupied by Linnæus as asserted by Sharpe (Cat. Birds, xxiv. p. 297), and should therefore be used. But as has been

pointed out to me by Mr. T. Iredale, *Charadrius varius* was used by Temminck (Cat. Syst. Cab. d'Orn. p. 174, 1807) as an alternative name to *Ch. pluvialis*, and this precludes the use of Vieillot's name. This little Plover must therefore retain its old and well-known name *Charadrius pecuarius* Temm., published in the 'Planches Coloriées' in 1823.

HIMANTOPUS HIMANTOPUS.

Bangs (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. lxi. p. 493, 1918) separates the Stilt of Madagascar from the typical form apparently on the grounds of its smaller size—wing ranging from 220–237 mm., average 226. Hartert gives 240–253 mm. for males and 227–236 mm. for females for the typical form. The only two specimens from Madagascar in the Museum, both unsexed, measure 228 and 236 mm. respectively, and they do not appear to differ in any other respect from the typical race. There seems to be little grounds, therefore, for the recognition of a Madagascan race.

The name used by Bangs, *Hysibates himantopus minor* Natterer, appears to date from 1860, when Hartlaub (Journ. Ornith. 1860, p. 170) mentions the Madagascan Stilt as *Himantopus minor* ex Natterer MS. The name *H. minor* Hartlaub, 1860, is preoccupied by *Himantopus minor* Brehm ('Isis,' 1843, p. 727: Hungary); so, even if the Madagascan bird is regarded as distinct, it will have to be provided with a new name.

Genera PTEROCLES and PTEROCLURUS.

It is with considerable regret that I find that there is some confusion in regard to these two generic names, which are commonly used for the Sandgrouse with and without elongated central tail-feathers. The trouble has arisen through the mistake made by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant (Cat. Birds B.M. xxii. p. 16, 1893) in making *Pterocles arenarius* the type of the genus. There can be no doubt that under the rules the type of Temminck's genus *Pterocles* is *P. alchata* by subsequent designation of Gray (List Gen. Birds, 1st ed. p. 62, 1840), and this is one of the long-tailed species.

The genus *Pteroclorus* was established (Comptes Rend. xlii. p. 880, 1856) by Bonaparte for the long-tailed species *P. alchata*, *exustus*, *namaqua*, and *senegallus*, and the type designated by O.-Grant himself as the first-named. It is therefore obvious that the generic names *Pterocles* and *Pteroclorus* are synonyms, and that *Pterocles* must be used for the Long-tailed Sandgrouse.

If following Dr. Hartert (Vög. pal. Faun. p. 1501) we consider the elongation of the central tail-feathers not of sufficient importance to justify generic separation, we can keep all the species (except, of course, *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*) under the generic name *Pterocles* as he has done. If not, we must find a new substitute name for the short-tailed species. I would propose, therefore, for this purpose

Eremialector, nom. nov.,

to take the place of *Pterocles* O.-Grant nec G. Gray, and designate as the type *Tetrao orientalis* Linn., which is an older name for the better known *Pterocles arenarius* (Pall.). The name derives from ἐρημία, a desert, and ἀλέκτωρ, a cock.

PTEROCLES VARIEGATUS.

It has been pointed out to me by Mr. T. Iredale that the name *Tetrao variegatus* Burchell ('Travels,' ii. p. 345, 1824) is preoccupied by *Tetrao variegatus* Gmelin (Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, p. 768, 1789), bestowed on the Variegated Tinamou of Latham, and now known as *Crypturus variegatus*. As there appears to be no synonym for this distinct species of Sandgrouse, I propose to rename it after the discoverer

Pterocles [Eremialector] burchelli, nom. nov.

Genus SPIZAËTUS.

This genus is a somewhat comprehensive one, containing as it does, according to Sharpe and most authors, very different-looking Accipitrine birds from South America, Africa, and south-eastern Asia. Its distinguishing character, according to Sharpe, is the short and rounded wing, in which

the difference in length between the primaries and secondaries is less than the length of the tarsus.

Recently Ridgway (Smithsonian Misc. Coll. vol. 72, no. 4; 1920) has proposed a new generic name, *Oroaëtus*, for the second Neotropical species *Spizaëtus isidori* (Desmurs) of the Catalogue, and another new generic name, *Phæoaëtus*, for the *Spizaëtus limnaëtus* group of south-eastern Asia, but he did not deal with the African species. These are three in number, and to show how different they are, I have drawn up a table showing the proportional of the wings, tail, and tarsus, taking the wing at 100 in each case :—

	Wing.	Difference between the length of the primaries and secondaries.	Tail.	Tarsus.
<i>S. ornatus</i> (Type of the genus.)	100	18·5	77·1	25·7
<i>S. bellicosus</i>	100	16·1	51·6	17·7
<i>S. coronatus</i> ..	100	5·3	73·6	18·6
<i>S. africanus</i>	100	16·9	70·0	23·0

For *S. bellicosus* with its remarkable short tail and tarsus we may use the generic name *Polemaëtus* Heine, in Heine & Reichenow, Nomencl. Mus. Hein. p. 270, 1890; type by monotypy, *Falco bellicosus* Daud.

For the other two African forms there seem to be no generic names available. I propose, therefore, the following :—

Stephanaoëtus, gen. nov.

Bill stout and strong with a sharp hook; wings comparatively short and rounded, not reaching more than halfway down the tail in the skin, the primaries hardly exceeding the secondaries by more than 50 mm.; the fourth, fifth, and sixth the longest; tail exceedingly long, about three-quarters the length of the wing, the outer feathers slightly shorter than the central ones; tarsus stout and rather short, clothed with feathers throughout to the middle

of the basal joint of the phalanges; claws, especially that of the hind toe, exceedingly large and strong.

Type. *Falco coronatus* Linnæus.

Cassinaëtus, gen. nov.

Bill moderately strong; wing moderately long and pointed, the primaries exceeding the secondaries by nearly one-fifth of the total length of the former, the fourth and fifth primaries subequal and the longest; tail fairly long, the outer feathers slightly shorter than the middle ones; tarsus long and rather slender, thickly clothed with feathers well down or to the first joint of the phalanges; claws moderate, hind claw the longest.

Type. *Limnaëtus africanus* Cassin.

Genus ORTHOLOPHUS.

It has been pointed out to me by Mr. Tom Iredale that this genus, introduced by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 424, 1892) for two West African Hornbills, is preoccupied by *Ortholophus* Bigot, Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr. (6) ii. p. 129 (1882), for a genus of Diptera. I propose to substitute

Tropicranus, gen. nov.,

for Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's *Ortholophus* with type *Ortholophus cassini* Finsch, as designated in my previous note (Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. xlii. p. 44, 1922). The name derives from *τρόπις*, a keel, and *κράνος*, a helmet.

Mr. P. F. BUNYARD exhibited mounted specimens of nest, feathers, and down of the Buffel-headed Duck (*Bucephala albeola*) from Buffalo Lake, Alberta, taken by Messrs. H. G. Lings and C. B. Horsbrugh on June 7th and 13th, 1920.

Description.—Feathers (type or predominating feather): terminal portion pure white, basal or downy portion greyish white, paler where it meets the terminal portion; the calamus is distinctly a warmer shade of grey.

Measurements (average) 26 mm.